

**Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6E
Virtual Public Meeting
Thursday, April 18, 2024**

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6E convened via Zoom Video Conference and/or Telephone on Thursday, April 18, 2024 at 6:30 p.m.

Notes:

- A recording of the meeting is available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mzfegcU9rAk>
- Presentations and all documents related to this meeting are available at: <http://anc6e.org/2612-2/>

Present:

Chris Hart, (Chair), ANC 6E01
Kevin Rogers, ANC 6E03
Ahmad Abu-Khalaf, (Secretary), ANC 6E05
Davina Carson, (Treasurer), ANC 6E07
Dale Prince, ANC 6E08
Ritanch Hans, (Vice Chair), ANC 6E09

Absent:

George Viedma, ANC 6E02
Denise Blackson, ANC 6E04
Dylan Forest, ANC 6E06

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 6:32 p.m. by Chair Chris Hart with a quorum of 6 out of 9 Commissioners present.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: Commissioner Prince moved and Commissioner Carson seconded to approve the Agenda as amended. The Motion **passed** unanimously 6 yeas – 0 nays – 0 abstentions.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: Commissioner Carson moved and Commissioner Prince seconded to approve the Minutes of the March 26, 2024 ANC 6E Virtual Public Meetings as submitted. The Motion **passed** 6 yeas – 0 nays – 0 abstentions.

4. UPDATES FROM WARD 6 COUNCILMEMBER ALLEN

- Ward 6 Budget Town Hall, will be held on April 29, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

- The Mayor has proposed her budget for next year, and then the Council is holding hearings on it. The Council will be voting on the final version of the budget in June.
- He believes the proposed budget is harmful and plans to work with the Council on reversing cuts to important programs, such as the Pay Equity Fund, the rental assistance program, food assistance, and the Earned Income Tax Credit rebate.
- The Mayor's budget proposes eliminating the DC Circulator bus, and he is pushing for a transition plan as he does not believe it is possible to find \$100M to save it.
- Metro Overall Funding: WMATA is facing a massive budget shortfall of about \$700 million. Councilmember Allen is working with his colleagues on the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governors board to put forward a plan that fully funds that gap this year.
- Downtown: Capital One Arena will remain the home of the Wizards and the Capitals, and he thinks that is a good investment. Funds will be allocated for improvements in the surrounding streetscape and the public space, but there are still issues to discuss, such as requests for moving close-by bus stops.
- Downtown Revitalization: The neighborhoods between Capital One Arena and Union Station have to be looked at as part of the Downtown revitalization plan. They need to be knitted together in a way that works really well.

A question-and-answer period followed.

- Commissioner Carson thanked Councilmember Allen for including the neighborhoods between Capital One Arena and Union Station in the Downtown Revitalization plan.
- Commissioner Prince raised an item concerning a Cannabis License Application in his neighborhood.

Councilmember Allen responded that he commits to talking to his team to go back and look at this. It was his recollection that the way it works for Alcohol is that groups of five or more can do a protest, for example, but if the ANC enters into a Settlement Agreement, then that essentially is the governing agreement. He believes that ABCA was supposed to apply the same process for Cannabis. Permanent legislation has been introduced to make several changes to the way this works.

- Commissioner Rogers stated some of his constituents want to know if lights or stop lights are going to be installed at their building at 307 Plaza West. Commissioner Hart added ANC 6E passed a resolution at its last meeting asking DDOT to look at safety improvements in the 200-300 blocks of K Street, so between New Jersey Avenue and 4th Street, and one of the things we asked for was safety improvements at that unprotected crosswalk at the corner of 3rd Street, so we would like to see some attention there and we would certainly appreciate any support in that area.

Councilmember Allen responded about a year and a half ago, his office pointed out to DDOT that that intersection needs to have a traffic light. He thinks that is the only way to control that intersection safely and, to him, that is the only viable option forward. DDOT has said that they are looking at this issue, but he does not believe they have actually made the final commitment or put the funding in to add that

traffic light. He will follow up.

Commissioner Hart will send ANC 6E's Resolution to Councilmember Allen's team to help with that argument.

- Commissioner Abu-Khalaf stated he would appreciate a brief update about recent legislative changes or investments or upcoming investments related to public safety and pedestrian safety, i.e., the STEER Act, any updates on the Plaza or Game On Act and any recent changes related to the passage of Secure DC, or any other updates he would like to provide.

Councilmember Allen responded the STEER Act was passed unanimously by the Council. The Mayor did not sign it into law but because it was passed unanimously, it still became the law. The other part is that it was not funded in the Mayor's budget that she sent to the Council, so a top priority for the Council's Transportation Committee is making sure elements of this bill are funded.

A big part of what it does is it starts to hold accountable dangerous drivers who are racking up tens of thousands of citations for high speeds.

There are funds to continue growing our school crossing guards, for example, our traffic control officers. He thinks that is an important part of keeping people safe.

The Mayor's budget proposal also seeks to repeal parts of the Vision Zero law. We overturned that effort last year and we will do it again this year, but it just feels like it is unnecessary to keep trying to do that. What we want is to implement the law and focus on traffic safety.

- Commissioner Hans stated he is happy to see Capital One Arena staying in DC but questioned how much of that \$515 million that D.C. offered Monumental Sports Entertainment came at the expense of some of these other programs that are subject to budget cuts? Is there any correlation or is it completely separate?

Councilmember Allen responded and stated within DC, we have our Operating budget and we have our Capital budget. In the fall, the Chief Financial Officer, looked at our Capital budget and went back out to the market to refinance D.C. borrowing as rates had dropped, so they essentially refinanced a lot of the District's borrowing that actually freed up about \$515 million dollars that otherwise we would not be able to spend on other things.

- Commissioner Hart stated we have heard a lot about challenges with homelessness in ANC 6E and that type of budget cuts are only going to make that problem worse if renters are not able to stay in their homes so this is an area where we need that investment brought back.

Commissioner Hart appreciated the update on the Circulator bus and stated certainly this is something we would not want to see go, but that may be one of those shared sacrifices we have to make and appreciates the focus that Councilmember Allen mentioned on the transition plan.

The last question Commissioner Hart had was about the Metro budget going forward. He is happy to hear that this year is covered, but requested that the Councilmember speak a little bit about his work with the Metropolitan Council of Governments and any other steps he is taking to help avoid similar issues with budget shortfall in the years to come.

Councilmember Allen responded that in addition to serving as the Ward 6 Councilmember and the Chair of Transportation Committee for the Council, he is also the Chair of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) this year. The COG is a body of elected officials from Virginia, Maryland, and DC. He reached out to the chair of the WMATA Board Paul Smedberg and proposed an idea, which is initiating meetings between COG's Board of Directors and Paul Smedberg and the WMATA Board of Directors to help think through and map out of strategies to address budget shortfalls. The first meeting is coming up on May 1st and we are committed to thinking through what the long term funding will look like.

- o Chat: Can you give us your perspective on cannabis smoking lounges? There are now a lot being approved in Ward 6 and Ward 2 and there does not seem to be consideration for the appropriate locations for these sites. Is this initiative from the city meant simply to raise revenue without considering the health and other impacts on the personal wellbeing of the residents?

Councilmember Allen responded there is a part of a Medical Cannabis Retailer that allows for onsite consumption. There are not that many of them, but there are a few where they are requesting that kind of onsite consumption. His understanding is that some of that is onsite consumption of edibles, so not creating the smoke. But where outdoor smoking will be allowed, the same type of scrutiny that applies to smoking cigarettes or cigars should be applied. He emphasized the DC has a permanent legislation that would regulate these issues being considered by the Council.

Commissioner Hart added that 6E is wrestling with a license request right now that includes a consumption lounge on Massachusetts Avenue between 3rd and 4th Streets, so it may be worth having more of a conversation offline about some of the issues we are seeing.

- o Chat: Will there ever be ticket reciprocity for Maryland and Virginia drivers and was the STEER Act related to that?

Councilmember Allen responded he does not believe there will be ticket reciprocity, as he does not see the D.C. government pushing for that or Maryland or Virginia being willing to partner on that issue.

Within the STEER Act, we create teeth and accountability for all of those unpaid citations for dangerous driving. There is a vehicle right now that has close to \$200,000 worth of dangerous driving speeding tickets with a Maryland plate on it and we have no reciprocity mechanism to go after that person but with the STEER

Act, we do now.

- Chat: She is the manager of one of the Affordable Housing Tax Credit communities in Mount Vernon Triangle and is concerned about a proposed bill to slash the Emergency Rental Assistance Program by two thirds. Drastically reducing rental assistance funding could gravely endanger families and seniors potentially leading to homelessness if landlords are left unpaid. Secondly, if the bill passes, could you clarify when the changes to rental assistance funding might take effect?

Councilmember Allen responded he thinks the Council is committed to finding more resources to help refill the budget gap in the Emergency Rental Assistance program, but he does not know if the Council will be able to restore it to 100%.

- Chat: **(1)** Is the Circulator Bus really dead? **(2)** Can you speak to cuts to DC Schools?

Councilmember Allen – **(1)** responded he does not believe there is \$100 million floating around in the budget to restore the Circulator Bus and that is just for one year. We need to create a transition plan and work with WMATA. He has talked to the General Manager of WMATA and he said we can absolutely figure this out; **(2)** There are significant reductions to DCPS purchasing power. The student funding formula actually went up significantly, which is a part of we are paying teachers a better wage. However, we are also seeing pretty significant cost drivers that have gone up on other elements and the Federal dollars have started to dry up. We passed a law that is supposed to require that schools get their full funding and the Mayor is trying to repeal that law. We are going to fight it again and try to make sure that we are fully funding our schools.

- Commissioner Hart stated one kind of easy win with WMATA could just be extending the D4 bus line further west towards Georgetown, and increasing its frequency, so in the Councilmember's conversations, that might be an easy one.
- Commissioner Abu-Khalaf asked for a quick update about crime and public safety. We often get questions or concerns about recent changes and upcoming investments.

Councilmember Allen responded that MPD data is showing that we are moving towards the right trends with significant reductions in Violent Crime and in crime in the city, with the caveat that if someone or their friends or neighbors are subject to crime incidents, then the data won't be reassuring, and we would need to keep pushing hard towards increasing public safety. He is working with the Council on both increasing accountability for offenders and providing resources for stopping the causes of crime. He has done multiple safety walks with MPD and 6E commissioners.

5. UPDATE FROM MAYOR'S OFFICE OF COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND SERVICES (MOCRS) – Marcus Manning, Ward 6 Community Liaison, 202-538-1241, marcus.manning@dc.gov

Did not join the call.

**6. PSA REPORT: METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT 1D (PSAs 101 and 102)
Lt. Alali**

- Violent Crime year to date down 57%.
- Thefts from Autos down 9%.
- Crime Prevention:
 - Putting a lot more cops on patrol at night, where nearly half of the gun violence occurs.
 - Assigning a cop to enforce traffic violations such as unregistered cars or cars that have bogus plates.
 - Have three patrol cars on the midnight shift starting 4 hours earlier to cover the shift change; that has really worked out well. During that shift change is where we get hit the hardest. Nearly half of the shootings we look at are happening between that 5-hour window between 9:00 p.m. and 2:00 a.m.
 - Looking to set up vehicle checkpoints in high violence areas. He really believes it will help stop violence before it starts.
 - Working with other city agencies to crack down on gun violence, and we have made a significant amount of arrests in that area.

A question-and-answer period followed.

- Commissioner Hart stated we have seen across the city, but particularly in 6E, a lot of those unregistered mopeds popping up that are not following traffic laws. Is this something MPD is aware of and are there actions MPD is taking related to those vehicles?

Lt. Alali responded, unfortunately, a lot of those mopeds, as far as the DC Code is concerned, if they are under a certain number of CCs, there is no requirement for them to be registered.

Commissioner Hart added it is particularly bad at the 7-Eleven on K Street NW where the sidewalk is almost entirely taken over by mopeds, so we definitely need to strike a balance there and we are happy to have continued conversations on that.

- Commissioner Rogers – **(1)** asked about the moped licensing and the CC's. Lt. Alali responded it is his understanding it is not the speed, it is the CCs (he thinks the threshold is 49CCs), so anything 49 CCs and under does not require registration or a license. In terms of speed for a 49 CC moped, he would guess about 40 mph but he would need to check this; **(2)** asked about the age requirement for a license for a moped. Lt. Alali responded 16 is the age for a license.
- Chat: Max said he has seen moped drivers put little license plates on them that say 49 CC regardless of what they actually are.
- Chat: Scott said on April 4, 2024 at 9:00 a.m., there was a car that flew down the middle of the 400 block of K Street hitting multiple cars in the process and speeding away. He asked if there was any update on this. Lt. Alali responded he did not have anything on this and asked if there was a report number.

7. PSA REPORT: METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT 5D (PSAs 501 and 502)

Did not join the call.

8. OFFICE OF CAMPAIGN FINANCE – PRESENTATION ON CAMPAIGN FINANCE PROGRAMS

Representative Present: **Kalvanetta Peete**

Kalvanetta Peete stated she is with the Office of Campaign Finance (OCF). The OCF also has attorney advisors, and the whole purpose of the OCF is to monitor the financial aspects of political committees and financial committees that are registered with the OCF within the District of Columbia, and we try to seek voluntary compliance from the committees that are registered with our program.

Ms. Peete referred to a Fact Sheet and provided an overview of the Fair Elections Program (FEP) which is a voluntary public financing program for local political campaigns in the District of Columbia through the combination of matching funds and lump sum base amounts.

*Full Fact Sheet will be uploaded to the ANC 6E website.

9. FRESHFARM MOUNT VERNON TRIANGLE FARMERS MARKET – PRESENTATION ON MARKET AND AVAILABLE FOOD ASSISTANCE RESOURCES

Representative Present: **Yuval Lev**

Yuval Lev stated he has been the farmers market manager of the FRESHFARM Mount Vernon Triangle Market for the past three years and stated that some new vendors have been brought in.

He provided details about FreshFarms' Nutrition Programs – **(1)** FreshMatch; **(2)** Produce Plus, **(3)** Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program; **(4)** Women, Infants, Children (WIP).

Commissioner Hart asked if there was any written documentation that could be shared. Mr. Lev responded he will share a flyer describing the programs.

Commissioner Prince commented he is really pleased to see the Market going so strongly.

10. LIQUOR LICENSE RENEWALS

- o **NoMa Wine & Liquor – 22 M Street NE (SMD 6E05) – Renewal of Class A Retail Liquor License**

Representative Present: Amit

Amit asked if there was any way to add on one more hour for operating hours on Fridays and Saturdays. Commissioner Hart informed him that would be a question for ABCA.

- **H Street Fine Wine and Liquors – 475 H Street NW (SMD 6E09) – Renewal of Class A Retail Liquor License – Tasting Endorsement**

Hours of Operation are Sunday through Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., and Friday and Saturday 9:00 a.m. to Midnight. Commissioner Hans added because H Street gets pretty dark at night, the proprietor actually added lights on top of his store to make the street brighter. He did this with his own money, so kudos for that.

- **Undercurrent Collective – 26 K Street NE (SMD 6E07) – Type A Internet Renewal**

Hours of Operation from 7:00 a.m. to Midnight Sunday through Saturday.

- **Uncorked – 1005 1st Street NE (SMD 6E07) – Class A Retail Liquor License Renewal with a Tasting Endorsement**

Representative Present: Katie Delawati

Hours of Operation from 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. Sunday through Saturday. Katie Delawati stated there are no changes with this renewal. They have been open for about 10 months now. It is a 6,000 square foot retail space that also includes a tasting bar. We do not have a tasting endorsement license, but we do have a healthy tasting aspect to the bar that is within the retail space. We have no change in our hours. We have around 3,000 loyal members. The space has an open floor plan which makes it very safe. We have had very few issues.

Commissioner Hart noted that Ms. Delawati mentioned they did not have a tasting license but he does see a tasting endorsement on the license. He asked if this is just for small pours? Ms. Delawati responded she thinks that they have applied a couple of times because we have a really great patio, but they do not have any chairs or what not to extend the license.

- **Select Reserves – 500 K Street NW (SMD 6E01) – Class A Retail Liquor License with a Tasting Endorsement – Prakash (Owner)**

Hours of Operation are 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Sunday, 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. Friday and Saturday.

Savita joined the call and stated the liquor store owners like to show their presence in the community and help the community if they can.

- **Eye Street Cellars – 425 I Street NW (SMD 6E01) Class A Retail Liquor License Renewal with a Tasting Endorsement – Prakash – Owner**

Hours of Operation: 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Sunday and 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday,

- o **Kogod Liquors – 441 New Jersey Avenue NW (SMD 6E08) – Class A Retail Liquor License Renewal with a Tasting Endorsement – Prakash - Owner**

Hours of Operation: 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Sunday and 7:00 a.m. to Midnight Monday through Saturday.

MOTION: Commissioner Hans moved and Commissioner Carson seconded that ANC 6E **support** the liquor license renewals for NoMa Wine & Liquor, H Street Fine Wine and Liquors, Undercurrent Collective, Uncorked, Select Reserves, Eye Street Cellars, and Kogod Liquors and that said support be conveyed in writing to ABCA. The Motion **passed** unanimously 6 yeas – 0 nays – 0 abstentions.

11. INITIATIVE AMENDMENT ACT RESOLUTION – Commissioner Abu-Khalaf

Commissioner Abu-Khalaf provided a recap and stated this is a bill that has been introduced by Chairman Mendelson and Councilmember Bonds. Home Rule restricts using ballot measures or initiatives that are voted on by voters to directly require the Council to appropriate certain funds. So, for example, we are not allowed to have an initiative saying we are asking the Council to appropriate \$500 million for the DC Circulator Bus. This bill wants to further restrict or clarify that any initiative should not have any fiscal impact or any fiscal cost. That is a broad statement that could have a lot of implications, especially that some valid measures or initiatives may have costs related to outreach and public education ahead of implementation and the process is unclear regarding who decides what is the fiscal impact and then would prohibit certain proposed initiatives from even being considered by voters. This is why he wanted to go ahead and introduce a resolution that would convey to the DC Council that ANC 6E opposes this proposed legislation and call on the Council to reject this bill.

Lengthy discussion followed.

MOTION: Commissioner Abu-Khalaf moved and Commissioner Prince seconded that ANC 6E **oppose** the Initiative Amendment Act of 2023 and to urge the Council of the District of Columbia to do the same. The Motion **passed** unanimously 6 yeas – 0 nays – 0 abstentions.

12. UPDATES ON RELVA SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT NEGOTIATIONS (TENTATIVE) – Commissioner Prince

Commissioner Prince stated this is a Retail A Medical Cannabis Retailer License with three endorsements – Delivery, Education Test Tasting, and Safe Use Treatment Facility currently located at 311 H Street. They are envisioning an expansion to occupy two vacant commercial properties on either side, 309 and 313 H Street and there has been a fair amount of interest in the two closest residential buildings, the Sonata Condominium, and the Madrigal Lofts. We heard from some of the people from the Sonata at our February meeting and he has follow-up emails from Sonata and Madrigal Lofts. Accordingly, we launched the process based on the resolution that we passed to protest the license.

He had already started discussions with the business toward a Settlement Agreement

which was subsequently redrafted. A Status Hearing will be held on April 24, 2024 that will review the status of the Settlement Agreement. Should we fail to reach a Settlement Agreement, we will go to Protest Hearing on May 22, 2024.

Commissioner Hart stated in terms of scheduling, the Protest Hearing will be held on May 22, 2024, and asked whether ABCA would need the Settlement Agreement by May 15, 2024. Commissioner Prince responded no, ABCA Legal told him they like to have a Settlement Agreement no sooner than two weeks before the Protest Hearing in order to review and approve it.

Commissioner Hart flagged that 6E may have to schedule a special meeting, that has to be properly noticed to meet that deadline, while posting a draft resolution ahead of the special meeting.

Commissioner Hart expressed his appreciation to Commissioner Prince for all his hard work on this topic.

13. OPEN FORUM

- o Jeanne Mattison stated she wanted to address the Commission in terms of gun violence and stated there is a small working group that is trying to address gun violence in 6E neighborhoods. We could use the Commission's help to start a working group. We have a huge gun violence prevention program here that has been pretty successful. She has not been able to get any traction in 6E and she just wanted to appeal to the Commissioners to be able to engage on this issue.

Commissioner Hart stated this is an area Commissioner Abu-Khalaf is interested in. 6E had existing committees previously, and then with a redistricting, we have not really launched any of these committees so we could consider having a Public Safety Committee that could be shared by Commissioner Blackson and Commissioner Abu-Khalaf.

Commissioner Abu-Khalaf mentioned Commissioner Prince has some interest in a Transportation and Public Space Committee so that is another option and this would give folks the space to have longer meetings that are focused on these issues outside of the ANC 6E monthly meeting schedule.

Commissioner Rogers stated there is gun violence happening all over the city and he was the victim of a gunshot. He expressed an interest in joining the Public Safety Committee.

- o Commissioner Hart stated he will be out of the country and not in communication starting the afternoon of May 2nd through May 17th so he will miss the Executive Committee meeting in preparation for the May 28th meeting. He tasked Vice Chair Hans to handle agenda requests for the Executive Committee Meeting.
- o Commissioner Hans raised the topic of reserving a table for ANC 6E at the Mount Vernon Triangle festival. He thinks this is a great way for us to get exposure, get more engagement in our meetings, and to get people to sign up for our newsletter. The cost would be either \$250 or \$350 and he does not think we had that in our

budget initially, so he does not know if we have to vote on that issue or not. Commissioner Hart responded it was \$250 and he did clear with the OANC that it was an eligible expense because it is in support of ANC's mission.

MOTION: Commissioner Hans moved and Commissioner Prince seconded to amend the ANC 6E Approved Budget so that \$250 can be expended in order to have a table for the Mount Vernon Triangle festival that is occurring on May 4th. The Motion **passed** unanimously 5 yeas – 0 nays – 0 abstentions. [Commissioner Carson had dropped from the call.]

Commissioner Hans requested permission to have flyers printed for the MVT Festival and received authorization.

- o Commissioner Abu-Khalaf – **(1)** stated he has not heard back from the OANC regarding the website project and suggested that this be revisited in May and if 6E does not have a clear timeline by then, he will come to that meeting with a request for proposal or some next steps for creating a new website; **(2)** we do not have to make a decision right now and maybe he will circulate an email and then test the waters regarding reinstating or launching new committees and then we can discuss at the next meeting. He thinks the Public Safety Committee is one option and then the Transportation and Public Space Committee is another option. Commissioner Hart responded, technically, we have standing committees in our bylaws that just are not active. As Chair, he would need to designate committee chairs so we can follow up on that. He is perfectly open to Committees -- it is entirely dependent on if folks want to volunteer to lead them and we can revisit that in May. Commissioner Prince stated discussion is needed about the focus of these committees and which ones we should stand up. Commissioner Hart stated he does not have the bandwidth to chair a committee, but he would be happy to participate in one.

14. NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, May 28, 2024

17. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: There being no further business to come before the Commission, Commissioner Prince moved and Commissioner Hans seconded to adjourn the meeting. The Motion **passed** unanimously 5 yeas – 0 nays – 0 abstentions. The meeting adjourned at 8:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
(Transcribed from Recording)

Karen Jehle
Recording Secretary
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